

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Winter 2001 . Volume 71 . Number 1



IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Kayleen A. Niyo, Editor, 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439 (Kay@KayNiyo.com)

Ann M. Barker, Spring Bird Count Editor, 3204 Crestline Drive, Davenport, IA 52803 (AnnBarker4@aol.com)

Robert I. Cecil, Winter Field Reports Editor, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311 (wewarb@aol.com)

James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldeoot@iastate.edu)

Stephen J. Dinsmore, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 612 1/2 W Magnolia Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521 (dinsmore@lamar.colostate.edu)

James L. Fuller, Fall Field Reports Editor, 6 Longview Knoll, N.E., Iowa City, IA 52240 (james-fuller@uiowa.edu)

Matthew C. Kenne, Spring Field Reports Editor, 709 N Phillips, Algona, IA 50511 (meeckeckk@reconnect.com)

FRONT COVER: *Glaucous Gull below Red Rock Dam on 7 December 2000. Photo by Aaron Brees.*

DESIGN: *Lynn Elblad, Ames, Iowa*

Copyright 2001 Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

CONTENTS

Meet an Iowa Birder — Ray Cummins <i>by Thomas N. Johnson</i>	2
Hitchcock Nature Area Hawkwatch Raptor Report <i>by Mark Orsag</i>	5
Spring Bird Count — 2000 <i>by Ann M. Barker</i>	13
Field Report — Fall 2000 <i>by James L. Fuller</i>	30
Tricolored Heron in Winneshiek County <i>by James L. Fuller</i>	45
Western Tanager in Mason City <i>by Rita Goranson</i>	46
Book Review <i>by Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	47
Fifty Years Ago in <i>Iowa Bird Life</i> <i>by James J. Dinsmore</i>	50
IOU Fall 2000 Business Meeting	51

Meet an Iowa Birder — Ray Cummins

Thomas N. Johnson

Competitive! As many birders are, Ray certainly fits the bill! He is competitive at many things that he does: golf, volleyball, basketball, tennis and, yes, birding. But his competitiveness in birding is not so much with other people. He competes with himself. He enjoys the challenge of seeing the maximum number of birds in a day and that is what he tends to do every time he goes birding. But this causes Ray a problem because, as well as trying to see many bird species in a day, he also likes to spend time looking at everything else that interests him. And a lot of things interest him! Even though he may attain a good bird list in a day, it always could have been better if he had not spent that extra 15 minutes looking at an eye ring on a warbler or the tail pattern on a sandpiper! Many of you have met Ray and you know that he is a very serious birder. He has a lot of fun but he is very meticulous and always wants to be accurate with bird identifications.



Ray Cummins

Ray was born on 10 September 1947 and grew up in Redfield, Iowa. He spent a lot of time at his grandfather's farm. When he was 10, his great aunt from New York visited his family. Ray must have mentioned something about birds to her. A few weeks later, he received a book in the mail. It was Roger Tory Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America*, and that was the beginning of his interest in birding. He used this book for his records and would

inscribe the birds he saw next to the pictures. He didn't belong to a bird club in his area; he learned birds on his own.

Ray began keeping sporadic records in 1965. He took an ornithology course at Truman State University, which served to introduce him to other people who also were interested in birding. After receiving a degree in zoology and education in 1969, he became a lieutenant in the Navy. During his service in the Navy, Ray spent time in Bermuda and met David Wingate who was studying the Bermuda Petrel, or Cahow. The Cahow was extremely rare, "20 individuals" at the time, and therefore its habitat was strictly protected. Ray, with David Wingate, was one of the few birders in the world privileged to visit its nest hole. He also spent time in Maine, Florida, and California and increased his bird list. In 1975, he returned to Iowa and at that time he joined the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU). This is when he really began to keep extensive records. Ray keeps county lists, year lists, an Iowa list (328), and a life list. His most important lists are for the county he is living in, Appanoose (283). He has a Pocahontas list (214) and a few other county lists throughout the state.

For many years, Ray has been a faithful reporter to the Iowa field reports having submitted 72 seasonal reports since his first in 1978 (Kent 2000). He worked on the IOU Records Committee for six years plus part of another term. He also has been on the IOU Board of Directors. Locally, he served as president and vice president of the Rathbun Lake Bird Club and continues to serve as its perennial field trip leader. He also will be teaching a noncredit birding course at Indian Hills Community College in the fall of 2001.

Ray really enjoys the Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs). He has been involved in the Rathbun CBC since 1983 and he spends a considerable amount of time scouting before the count. He has been involved in the Jamaica, Iowa count with Gene Burns since 1975. After Gene stopped being the compiler 20 years ago, Ray took over the job. He has participated in many other counts: Westfield, Keokuk, Saylorville, Des Moines, and Ottumwa. Ray enjoys birding on his own but he also enjoys being with others. When with a group, he is an excellent teacher and takes time to show the details of birds to other people.

Ray enjoys the challenges of the tough-to-identify birds like the sparrows, gulls, and shorebirds. He has collected some interesting records from the Rathbun area. In 1986 on the CBC, he found a Burrowing Owl and, as far as I know, this is the only one that has been found in the winter in Iowa. On the 1995 bird count, a Say's

Phoebe was found by Ray and Kay Malmberg. In the spring of 2000, a Snowy Plover was found in the Sedan area, which was the third record in Iowa.

Ray is employed by Curwood Corporation in Centerville, formerly known as Viskase and Union Carbide. His wife Madeline owns a real estate firm. He has two grown children who live in the Des Moines area and he has one grandchild. Ray is teaching his grandchild the art of birding and, at the age of three, his skills are improving! Besides birding, Ray is interested in many sports. He plays lots of golf in the summer, and volleyball and basketball in the winter. He also takes time to referee volleyball and basketball games.

Some of Ray's favorite birding places in Iowa are in the Croton unit of the Shimek Forest where he birds several times in the spring and fall. Most of his time is spent in Appanoose County and you can count on seeing Ray birding there almost every weekend throughout the year. However, Ray occasionally chases rare birds reported in the state, almost always after the fact, and therefore with little success. If you are ever in Appanoose County and you see a tall man walking through the marshes or grassy areas looking at sparrows, it is probably Ray Cummins. We are happy to have him in our area. He has provided us with a lot of knowledge about birds, and a lot of friendship.

LITERATURE CITED

Kent, T. H. 2000. Contributors to Field Reports from 1961 to 1999.
Iowa Bird Life 70:102-104.

19043 477 Street, Mystic, IA 52574 (tjbjohn@iowasocean.com)

Hitchcock Nature Area Hawkwatch Raptor Report — Fall 2000

Mark Orsag

INTRODUCTION

Hitchcock Nature Area is located in Pottawattamie County in western Iowa's Loess Hills and it overlooks the Missouri River valley. In contrast to a mediocre 1999, our fall 2000 season was an excellent one. There were many important "firsts." September 24th was our first 500-bird day and October 1st was our first 1,000-bird day. We counted more than 8,300 raptors and vultures of 19 different species this season; thus, we achieved new records for both diversity and overall numbers. Numerous new day and seasonal records were established.

THE 2000 SEASON

The success of the 2000 Hitchcock hawkwatch was certainly due to the new counting point at Badger Hill (used mostly on weekends). Many raptors moving along flight lines to the east of the main counting point at the Lodge were counted this year. Contact was maintained between the two points by hand-held radios. In past years, many of these "interior line birds" were missed. The introduction of the new counting point prompted a change in the way the hawkwatch computed its total hours of observation. Periods of time where both the Lodge and Badger Hill were staffed were logged as "weighted hours." Periods of time where only the Lodge was staffed were computed as "unweighted hours." Because restricted views during "unweighted hours" surely caused many birds to be missed (statistical analysis placed this figure at approximately 50%), "unweighted hours" were considered in calculations of the overall watch hours at only half of the value of "weighted hours."

Limited counting in August also was undertaken for the first time. This season's numbers not only serve as new benchmarks against which we will measure future flights, but they reveal a

hawkwatch with greater potential than many of us here had imagined. In truth, it can no longer be said that the Great Plains contains no major points of concentration for migrating raptors.

Plans for the construction of a new nature center at Hitchcock with a hawkwatching/observation deck on the roof of the Lodge, equipped with "Bigeye" optical technology, are a hopeful sign that Hitchcock's best days as a hawkwatch are still ahead. Hitchcock Nature Area's efforts to acquire the Mt. Crescent Ski Area also are ongoing, and these also could prove a major boon to the hawkwatch in the future. Mt. Crescent would be a superb vantage point; it probably would be the best single counting point in the whole area.

Thanks are in order, first and foremost, to Hitchcock Nature Area Rangers Chad Graeve and Darrin Jones. Darrin became one of the "Hitchcock regulars" this season, and Chad's dedication to and vision for Hitchcock Nature Area are an inspiration for all of us.

Without the "Hitchcock regulars," the intrepid band of hawkwatchers who are most frequently the ones suffering through scorching early September heat or a bone-chilling mid-November "Alberta Clipper," there would not be a hawkwatch at Hitchcock. Thus, Darrin Jones (for the second time), Howard and Sue (our fearless leader) Mattix, Clem Klaphake (who was our contact person with the Iowa birding community), Don Maas, Jim Meyer, Mark Orsag, Babs and Loren Padelford (our hawkwatch's founders), Don and Janis Paseka, and Jerry Toll (who once again ran the DeSoto NWR Christmas Count) deserve thanks and acknowledgment for their dedication to a worthy enterprise.

A host of other people lent their time, skills, and support this year. Special thanks go out to Mark Armstrong, Roland Barthes, Aaron Brees, Duane Bright, Jackie Canterbury, Janet Catterall, Barbara DiBernardi, Nelli Falzgraf, Bob Fuchs, Shirley Gillster (of Nebraska Raptor Recovery), John Hall, Brian Jensen, Dr. Paul Johnsgard, Karen Kahle, Tim Knott (of Wachiska Audubon), Wolf Oesterreich, Darrell Orth (Hitchcock Nature Area intern), Jim Sinclair (of the IOU Records Committee), and Pat Williams (of Loess Hills Audubon). We also thank the Nebraska Raptor Recovery's Betsy Hancock and Laurel Badura, who have helped us with the development of a worldwide web presence for the hawkwatch. Thanks to everyone (from five different states) who visited this past season and to all the folks who visited as part of the field trips organized by the Audubon Society of Omaha, the Fontenelle Forest Bird Club, Loess Hills Audubon, and Wachiska Audubon.

And now, the numbers . . .

Table 1. Hitchcock Nature Area hawkwatch totals, fall 2000, for 89 days; weighted (two counting points staffed plus adjusted unweighted hours) hours equal 304.5*

Species	Number
Turkey Vulture	1,762
Mississippi Kite	38
Bald Eagle (170 adults, 165 immatures, and 6 unknown)	341
Osprey	82
Northern Harrier	229
Sharp-shinned Hawk	947
Cooper's Hawk	198
Northern Goshawk	18
Red-shouldered Hawk	7
Swainson's Hawk (3 dark morphs and 3 rufous morphs)	1,452**
Broad-winged Hawk	230
Red-tailed Hawk (29 Harlan's, 3 Krider's, 27 Western dark morphs, 3 Western rufous morphs, 9 indeterminate dark morphs. The rest were mostly Eastern light morphs with a few [identifiable] Western light morphs.)	2,684
Ferruginous Hawk (1 dark morph)	1**
Rough-legged Hawk (11 dark morphs)	36
Golden Eagle (4 adults, 8 immatures)	12
American Kestrel	104
Merlin (both <i>columbarius</i> and <i>richardsoni</i> forms recorded)	29
Peregrine Falcon (both <i>tundrius</i> and <i>anatum</i> forms recorded)	43
Prairie Falcon	3
Unidentified raptor	141
Total	8,357 (19 spp.)
Total per weighted hour	27.4

*276.0 unweighted (Lodge-only hours)

** Swainson's Hawk and Ferruginous Hawk require approval by the IOU Records Committee to remain on the list.

TRENDS

Species trends were somewhat difficult to discern last year. The way we watched hawks at Hitchcock this last season, with the addition of the Badger Hill counting point, was very different than in former years. I think we finally have begun to understand the complex migration dynamics at Hitchcock. This was a new beginning, a benchmark year. Nevertheless, of course, at least rough comparisons with past seasons are possible, and I won't shy away from making them.

Species Found More Often in 2000

Turkey Vulture: No new day record this season, but a solid new seasonal record emerged. Peak month was September, but a two-day peak flight of 185 and 186 occurred on 30 Sep and 1 Oct. Last date of 3 Nov and the 100+ vulture flight on 15 Oct were unusually late for this species.

Mississippi Kite: It must have been the severe drought that helped drive these birds northward out of the most seriously afflicted areas in late summer that contributed to our runaway season record as well as to a new day record of 14 on 24 Sep. This was surely the most wondrous species count in a season of wonders. Like many southerly species, the Mississippi Kite has demonstrated a northward pattern of post-breeding dispersal in late summer. Thus, by bringing breeding pairs and their offspring closer, northward range expansion may have contributed as well. Prior to this season, only one Mississippi Kite had been recorded, in 1994, at Hitchcock. The peak month in 2000 was September, and the late date was an astonishing 8 Oct. It will be interesting to see what happens in 2001!

Osprey: A new seasonal mark was set, and a new day record of 36 was posted on 24 Sept. The late date was a somewhat surprising 12 Nov. The peak month was September.

Northern Harrier: A solid new seasonal mark was established. A new day record of 34 was set on 14 Oct and tied a week later on 21 Oct. October was the peak month. Interestingly, no migrating Northern Harriers were seen in December this year.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A new seasonal mark was established. A new day record of 126 was established on 21 Oct. October was the peak month this season. Good rebound for sharpies this year after a disastrous 1999. The 2000 totals for this species were probably boosted by the new Badger Hill counting point to a greater extent than for most of the other raptor species. Early date was 29 Aug.

Cooper's Hawk: Another solid new seasonal record was established. A new daily high of 39 was recorded on 24 Sept. October edged out

September as the peak month. The peak for the flight of the Cooper's Hawk was, as usual, somewhat "earlier" than for the Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Northern Goshawk: Evidently, this wasn't "officially" an irruption (invasion) year, but you could have fooled us! A runaway new seasonal record was matched by a stunning new day record of five recorded on 19 Nov. First date was 24 Sep, with the last one going by on 3 Dec; November was the peak month. We didn't keep an exact count, but I'm sure that at least half of these birds were adults. Some of them afforded us great looks. As Clem Klaphake said of an adult Northern Goshawk that passed within a few feet of the Lodge on 2 Dec, That is the way that you are supposed to see them!

Swainson's Hawk: Loren Padelford told me when I first started counting at Hitchcock that "the Swainson's will all come at once." That certainly was true in an unusually spectacular way in 2000! The Swainson's Hawk flight of 1 Oct was pure magic. Swirling kettles of dozens or hundreds of birds appeared on and off throughout the day with a crescendo occurring with the late passage of a cold front that also produced the season's best sunset. When all the hawks had settled (they were flying around in the early dark, sharing the night air with bats no less, looking for roosts), a new day record of 1,114 had been established. This almost certainly was a gross undercount due to my leaving Badger Hill too early. We also didn't have anybody at the watch during the morning of 2 Oct, which meant that hundreds of "stragglers" were probably missed. October was the peak month. A new seasonal mark was also established. A very late individual was reported and if approved by the IOU Records Committee, it will be a new species record for "lateness."

Rough-legged Hawk: No new day record this season, but we did set a solid new seasonal mark. Darrin Jones found the first rough-leg right on schedule in mid-to-late October (19th). The percentage of the flight that was composed of dark morph birds, around 30%, was also very typical. The peak month was November, with a peak flight of five occurring on 12 Nov.

Merlin: Although no new day record was set, the overall season total was a solid new record. Jerry Toll recorded a very early individual on 29 Aug. October was the peak month; a peak flight of four occurred on 21 Oct. The total for this species also was probably strongly boosted by the introduction of counting from Badger Hill.

Peregrine Falcon: The first peregrine, found by Jerry Toll, winged by Hitchcock on 5 Sept. This was pretty typical timing and gave no hint of what was to come. When the last bird went by on 3 Nov, the season total stood at an astonishing 43 (as opposed to six in 1999). Once again, Badger Hill's debut made an above-average difference with

this often low-flying species. The most astonishing day was 1 Oct, when a new day record of 22 Peregrines was established. Watching them come by two or three at a time or rocket past slower-moving birds such as Turkey Vultures, Ospreys, and Swainson's Hawks was a truly memorable experience! Because of this one-day blitz, October displaced September as the peak month this year.

Specied with No Change in Numbers

Red-shouldered Hawk: Due to this raptor's habit of flying on the off-wind side of the ridge (traditionally the east side at Hitchcock) during migration, the Red-shouldered Hawk total was projected to be a much higher count in 2000 because of Badger Hill. Indeed, new seasonal (7) and day records (2 on 3 Nov) were set. Then again, we had lots of southeast-wind days this year, and 2000's new seasonal mark wasn't a big jump from 1999's five red-shouldered. This predominantly eastern species remains decidedly uncommon at Hitchcock no matter where we count from and numbers aren't large enough to be statistically significant. Sue Mattix found the first red-shoulder of the season on 3 Sept, while the last bird came through on 12 Nov. Migration was fairly evenly spaced across September, October, and November.

Broad-winged Hawk: No seasonal or day record was set this year. As usual, September was the peak month, with the main flight of 147 broad-wings on 24 Sept. The first broad-wings were seen on 15 Aug; the last one went by on 4 Oct. The 1999 seasonal count was 215. We just seem to be too far west to get really big numbers.

Red-tailed Hawk: No day record was set this year. October was the peak month, but the peak count was on 4 Nov (240). The peak flight, however, almost certainly occurred on the less "late" date of 15 Oct. On that calm, cloudless day, many red-tails, rising to great height on thermals, vanished into a clear blue sky. The final count of birds that were seen (some as mere specks in 10x binoculars) that day was 210. While a new seasonal mark was established, the overall numbers in 2000 were somewhat disappointing in light of fairly high past counts, drought conditions, the additional coverage from Badger Hill in 2000, and the cold and snowy late fall weather. Western light and dark morph birds seemed to be more common than in years past, but Harlan's and Krider's numbers were somewhat down. The warm wet "reverse flow" (or "warm air spike") weather pattern of late October clearly hurt the red-tail count.

Ferruginous Hawk: Another lone immature bird, this one a dark morph, was reported in 2000. This find has been sent to the IOU Records Committee. If the Records Committee concurs, that will make 2000 the second straight year that this species has turned up at

Hitchcock. Time will tell whether this species is annual at Hitchcock.

Golden Eagle: No day or seasonal records were set. Like the Red-tailed Hawk flight, the Golden Eagle flight was probably negatively affected by poor migratory conditions in late October. Nevertheless, the seasonal total of 12 nearly equaled last year's record of 13. Perhaps because the harsh late-season conditions drove them farther south than usual, a surprisingly high number of 2000's Golden Eagles (4) were adults. The whole flight seems to have been "delayed" to such an extent that the first bird wasn't seen until 26 Oct and November barely outdid December as the top month. Indeed, the top day count of three occurred on 9 Dec. In 1999, the first two Golden Eagles were recorded on 16 Oct, and all the birds had been counted before the end of November.

Prairie Falcon: No seasonal record was set. There has never been a multiple Prairie Falcon day at Hitchcock, so the day record was thrice tied. October (21st), November (11th), and December (20th) each saw one bird counted in 2000. Like the Ferruginous Hawk, the Prairie Falcon is a rare find at Hitchcock. Thus, we have to be extra careful in calling it. The Prairie Falcon's habit is to zoom past the watch points low and fast; this, of course makes our job that much harder. Unless the bird is fairly well seen, confusion with other falcons is also a real possibility. Thus, we let a couple of probable Prairie Falcons go down as "unidentified raptors." In light of everything, a drop of one bird from 1999's record total of four is a very long way from being statistically significant.

Unidentified Raptor: We at Hitchcock are fairly cautious folk I guess. We had a few more unidentified raptors this year (141) than last (131). September and October both saw 57 "unknowns" recorded. This seems to refute the theory, voiced by some of us in the past, that most of our unidentified raptors were really predominantly "speck" Bald Eagles seen through scopes while soaring 6 to 7 miles away over the Missouri River or the bluffs on the Nebraska side of the river. The Bald Eagle is a late-season, rather than a mid-season, migrant at Hitchcock. Thus, the infamous "URs" retain their mystery.

Species Showing Declines

Bald Eagle: Big dip in Bald Eagle numbers this year despite a day record 114 counted on 19 Nov. November was the top month. The relative absence of Bald Eagles in December (46 in December 2000 vs. 245 in December 1999) made the difference. The cold weather in November and December was almost certainly responsible for shortening the Bald Eagle flight. The first Bald Eagles appeared a bit early this year on 23 Sept. The decline in numbers was almost certainly also the result of the early freezing of lakes (the birds were forced to move on a

broader front this year) and the fact that only the Lodge watchpoint was staffed during the big "Alberta Clipper"-driven flight of 19 Nov.

American Kestrel: The American Kestrel flight was a very strange one in 2000. There were 104 birds tallied, but the high day count was only eight (14 Oct). Neither count was a record. The data patterns suggest possible over-counting and a need to tighten protocols for this species next season. More kestrels were counted in October than in any other single month. September has always been the prime month in the past. While many of the birds that were counted also were seen only by the Badger Hill counters, the seasonal count was nevertheless down from past passage rates and from 1999's season total of 115.

SUMMARY

Hitchcock clearly is a fairly significant concentration point for migrating raptors on North America's Great Plains. In an area bereft of mountain ridges or water barriers, the Missouri River valley and the Loess Hills form an attractive migration corridor for raptors. Not long ago, it was widely believed that there were no rewarding or scientifically-informative opportunities for hawkwatching on the Great Plains. Hitchcock and other Iowa watches, such as those at Grammar Grove, Macbride Nature Center, and Effigy Mounds, are proving conventional wisdom to be wrong. While the numbers of migrant raptors observed at Hitchcock will probably never equal the numbers seen at sites on the shores of the Great Lakes or on the Pennsylvania ridges, Hitchcock's totals are nonetheless significant. The diversity of the Hitchcock flight also is greater than that of even such a famed site as Hawk Mountain. In coming years, we hope to gradually increase the Hitchcock hawkwatch's volunteer base to achieve full (every day) coverage during our hawkwatching season. Only when full coverage is maintained over a number of seasons will we know the full extent of the surprising autumn passage of raptors at Hitchcock.

944 Forest Avenue. Apt. 4, Crete, NE 68333 (morsag@doane.edu)

Spring Bird Count — 2000

Ann M. Barker

The 2000 Spring Bird Count was held on 13 May. A total of 20 counties participated (Table 1), down 8 from 1999 (Barker 2000). Counties new to the count in 2000 were Cerro Gordo, Decatur, and Webster. Previously reporting counties that did not participate this year included Bremer, Des Moines, Hamilton, Harrison, Iowa, Linn, Mills, Page, Pottawattamie, Shelby, and Tama.



A. M. Barker

Ten counties reported 100 or more species (Table 1). Louisa again led the way with 173, bettering last year's count by 9 species. Johnson County tallied 145 for second; Clinton, 142 for third, and Appanoose, 129 for fourth. Cerro Gordo, Clay, and Boone were fifth through seventh with 124, 120, and 112 species, respectively. The average number for all counties was a respectable 97.6, up 9.6 from last year.

Again, the strongest geographical coverage was from east-central Iowa with six counties represented, down two from 1999. Central Iowa had five counties participating, down only one from last year. The southeast and south-central regions had three counties each participating, and there was one county from each of the northwest, north-central, and northeast regions. No counties from west-central or southwest Iowa reported.

The species total was 231, identical to last year, up 9 from 1998, and down just three from 1997. The record total is still held by the 1996 count at 244. A total of 74 birders participated, down from 144 in 1999. Appanoose County had the most observers, with 13. Johnson County had nine, and Scott, eight.

Species found in all 20 counties were Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Barn Swallow, House Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and American Goldfinch. Species found in all but one county included Killdeer, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Bluebird,

European Starling, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Common Grackle, and Baltimore Oriole. Species found in 18 of 20 counties included Canada Goose, Red-tailed Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Rock Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Song Sparrow, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

More than 10,000 individuals of two species were found. The most was 11,224 European Starlings, with House Sparrows following at 10,100. Twenty additional species had total counts more than 1,000. These included Red-winged Blackbird, 9,578; Cliff Swallow, 4,261; American Robin, 4,154; Tree Swallow, 3,866; American Crow, 3,753; Mourning Dove, 3,623; and Common Grackle, 3,567.

Coverage for the state was significantly decreased from 1999. This represents a setback in efforts to reliably quantify the relative numbers and regional locations of spring birds in Iowa. On the positive side, however, it should be noted that the counts that were done this year were on the whole more complete in their scope, with parties staying out longer hours and covering more areas, which should boost reliability for those counties. It will be important in future years to increase coverage statewide, so that a better understanding of abundance and distribution in all parts of the state may be achieved.

REFERENCES

- Barker, A. 2000. 1999 Spring Bird Count. *Iowa Bird Life* 70:16-31.
Barker, A. 1999. Spring Bird Count — 1998. *Iowa Bird Life* 69:21-29.
Petersen, P. C. and J. J. Dinsmore. Spring Bird Count — 1997 *Iowa Bird Life* 68:1-8.

3204 Crestline Drive, Davenport, Iowa 52803 (Annbarker4@aol.com)

Table 1. Count statistics for the Iowa Spring Bird Counts — 2000

County	Number of			Hours				Miles		
	Species	Obs.	Parties	Foot	Car	Feeder	Owling	Foot	Car	Owling
Allamakee	34	1	1	2	3	2		3	25	
Appanoose	129	13	5	4.5	23.5	0	0.5	6.8	253	0
Benton	30	1	1	0	1	1.5			30	
Boone	112	1	1	5	0.5	0.5	0	3.5	20	0
Cerro Gordo	124			7		0.5			190	
Clay	120	4	1	3	4	0	0	3	131	0
Clinton	142	4	2	4.5	21.7	0	6.5	6.25	184	98
Dallas	78	5	2	5.5	8.5	0	0.5	4	87	1
Decatur	68	2	1	6	1	0	0	4	19	
Jackson	99	4	2	6	6	11	0.25	5	215	1
Jefferson	92	3	3	7	1	1	1	3	22	3
Johnson	145	9	7	22	10	0.5	3	6	140	
Louisa	173	2		8	5.5	0			343	
Muscatine	91	5	2	4	4	0	0	2	30	0
Polk	102	2	1	4	6.5	0	0	4.5	105	0
Scott	106	8	5	10.5	14.5	4	0.5	10	140	1
Story	48	1	1	0.75	1.75	0		1	38	
Warren	102	5	4	10.7	9.75	0	0	9.5	166	0
Washington	73	2	1	1	11	0	0	1	164	0
Webster	83	2	1	1	9	0	0	0.5	58	0
TOTALS	231	74	41	112.5	142.2	21	12.5	73.3	2360	104
AVERAGE	97.6	3.7	2.05	5.6	7.11	1.05	0.62	3.66	118	5.2

Table 2a. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	Pi	Am	Do	Am	Gr	Gr	Ca	Gr	Bl	Ye	Tu	Sn	Ro	Ca	Wo	Am	Ma
	Bi	Ea	Wh	Cr	Co	Bi	He	Gr	He	Cr	NH	Cr	NH	Go	Du	Wi	
	Gr	Gr	Pe	Co	Co	Bi	He	Gr	He	Cr	NH	Cr	NH	Go	Du	Wi	
Allamakee																	
Appanoose			88	155			44	2	2	3		2	73	1	201	16	33
Benton															14		
Boone	2					1						11			20	10	10
Cerro Gordo	2	6	30			5			1			2	13	1	4	17	4
Clay			145	129		2						4			265	99	42
Clinton	1			341		42	29			2		29			163	10	2
Dallas						2	1					3			66	8	10
Decatur						2						10			5		
Jackson	5			40		42	5		1			25			578	30	11
Jefferson						3						11			6		
Johnson	3		30	130		60	2		3			30			97	10	2
Louisa	5		21	190		400	100	12	21	11	2	220			850	90	350
Muscatine				76		14			1			23			65	17	12
Polk	3		93	121		6			2			10			136	8	11
Scott	1			15		23	1		3			20			80	46	59
Story									1			2			14		12
Warren	1					4	1		3			45			97	30	4
Washington						7			2			32			110	16	13
Webster	1								1			8			25	7	4
No. Indiv.	24	6	407	1198	2	657	140	16	42	13	7	567	15	1	2792	398	13 793
No. Counties	10	1	6	10	1	16	7	4	12	2	3	20	3	1	18	15	8 5 16

Table 2b. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	Bl Wi Te	No Sh	Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ne Du	Ri	Le Sc	Ho Me	Ru Du	Os	Mi Ki	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Ha	Co Ha	Re Sh Ha	Br Wi Ha	Sw Ha	Re Ta Ha	Am Ke
Allamakee	106	35											2							2	
Appanoose																				15	10
Benton	16	4																			
Boone										3											
Cerro Gordo	10	1			5	3				27										1	2
Clay	112	79	3					4												4	3
Clinton	31	15				1														5	1
Dallas	4	1						2	4				2	1				2		14	2
Decatur									2											5	4
Jackson	12																			4	2
Jefferson	4												5			2				7	1
Johnson	37	8			1			2												5	1
Louisa	10	2	2	4				3	16				2	1		2				7	3
Muscatine	9					12										8	2	11		55	40
Polk	120	33																		6	7
Scott	4																			2	2
Story	26	6																		8	9
Warren	6																				
Washington	26	13																		11	5
Webster	20																			7	4
No. Indiv.	543	206	6	5	6	16	11	24	33	33	1	1	13	4	13	15	2	13	1	161	97
No. Counties	16	11	3	2	2	3	4	5	3	3	1	1	6	4	4	6	1	2	1	18	17

Table 2c. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	Pe			Ri			Vi			Co			Am			Se			Gr			Le			Sp			
	Fa	Gr	Pa	Ne	Ph	Ru	Wi	Tu	No	Bo	Ra	So	Mo	Co	Am	Sa	Cr	Go	Pi	Pl	Ki	Av	Ye	So	Sa	Wi	Sa	
Allamakee				3	2		4																					
Appanoose				15			44		6		1	10		51					4			20	1	2	39	2		18
Benton																												
Boone				1								3		112								8		7			2	
Cerro Gordo			2	1					1			4		60					2			4		10	1	1		2
Clay				11										105				25			7	18		11	2		5	
Clinton				1			8				1	3		196				9				17		15	1		3	
Dallas				25																		2					1	
Decatur							10																				1	
Jackson							1					2		15		2			3			3		1			6	
Jefferson				6										1													8	
Johnson				8			3		2			1	1	95					1			34		5	1		9	
Louisa	1			60			21		26		3	24	3	54				3			5	275		14	22		28	
Muscatine				2			3							1								7					2	
Polk				2								4		79								5		8		1	9	
Scott				4			1							7		2		7	12	23				4	1		3	
Story														1					4								4	
Warren				10			2		1			1		4								15			2		2	
Washington				7					1										4								3	
Webster												1		8								7		7	1		4	
No. Indiv.	1	2	156	2	97	36	6	53	4	789	4	44	42	459	1	12	128	33	2	109								
No. Counties	1	1	15	1	10	5	4	10	2	15	2	4	9	19	1	8	13	9	2	18								

Table 2d. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	Up	Hu	Ma	Ru	Se	Le	Wh	Ba	Pe	Du	St	Sh	Lo	Co	Am	Wi	Re
	Sa	Go	Go	Tu	Sa	Sa	Ru	Sa	Sa		Sa	Do	Bi	Sp	Wo	Ph	Ne
																	Ph
																	Gu
Allamakee	2				15	45	2		103		3			3		5	40
Appanoose																	
Benton																	
Boone		4			13	48	2		15	7			35			5	
Cerro Gordo		4			66	100	1		15	60	1		50				24
Clay		58		2	310	125	49	5	204	112	2		39	34		15	93
Clinton						51	1	4	129	30			15	7		1	8
Dallas																	
Decatur																	
Jackson									2								
Jefferson					1	20	13	2	31	9			3	6			
Johnson		6			6	30	1		20	3	1		8		1		11
Louisa	2				6	46			5					2	7		
Muscatine																	
Polk		23	3		8	85	2	2	66	1			31				325
Scott						44							7				
Story		2			10	10		12	12	9			15			1	3
Warren							2										
Washington		1			44	13			4				2			4	25
Webster					6	8			8				2			1	
No. Indiv.	4	98	3	2	3	504	618	60	25	614	230	8	207	16	37	2	3
No. Counties	2	7	1	1	3	11	13	8	5	13	7	5	11	3	2	1	7

Table 2e. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	Ri	Bi	He	Ca	Co	Fo	Ster- na	Bl	Ro	Mo	Bl	Ye	Ea	Gr	Lo	Sh	Co	Ch	Wh
	Gu	Gu	Te	Te	Te	Te	sp.	Te	Do	Do	Cu	Bi	Cu	Ho	Ow	Ea	Ni	Wi	Po
Allamakee										5									3
Appanoose	21		8		1			120	10	152		4		1	3		4		7
Benton										3									
Boone									3	6				1	1				4
Cerro Gordo	11				15			600	4	5			1						1
Clay	15				2			11	7	23									5
Clinton	263			2	6			160	32	76		6		3	1		6		38
Dallas									14	18									6
Decatur									3	16					1				
Jackson		32					20	14	15	46		1					5		20
Jefferson									10	15				2	3	1	1		40
Johnson	47	1	6		1			350	35	64	1	3	2		3				60
Louisa	32			3	12			130	2500	3000	8	31		11	24		11	3	18
Muscatine	2		18		4			21	17	18					1		2		2000
Polk	33	1	3		4				3	9									5
Scott	43	3	1						49	58				2	1				64
Story									2	14									1
Warren								2	4	63									36
Washington								7	11	27							3		19
Webster								35	4	5				1					
No. Indiv.	467	37	36	5	45	20	1450	2723	3623	9	45	3	18	40	1	1	32	3	28 2311
No. Counties	9	4	5	2	8	1	11	18	20	2	5	2	5	10	1	1	7	1	3 15

Table 2g. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	Lo Sh	Wh Ey Vi	Be Vi	Bl He Vi	Ye Th Vi	Wa Vi	Ph Vi	Re Ey Vi	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Pu Ma	Tr Sw	No RW Sw	Ban Sw	Cl Sw	Bar Sw	Swal low Sp.	BI Ca Ch	Tu Ti
Allamakee					4	24		15	1	67		10	8					5	3	
Appanoose									29			12	58				35		6	10
Benton									3	1										
Boone					1			4	9	17		2	7	8			13		7	4
Cerro Gordo				1	1	1	1	1	5	18	1	2	1	7	2	2		5	2	
Clay			1			2	1	2	11	29	2		357	5		1	215		13	
Clinton			1		10	25		24	23	120	5		325	589	369	367	313		24	13
Dallas						11		1	16	18		17	22	3	8	28	68		12	1
Decatur			1		3	3		6	17	5				6			15		12	4
Jackson						12		7	12	15		37	333	45	65	30	63		7	5
Jefferson			2		1	5		8	12	15			5	9		4	14		12	6
Johnson			2	1	5	24		15	32	120	4		64	27	25	136	103	40	27	5
Louis	2				39	115		45	750	3000	90	30	400	200	500	3200	900		235	45
Muscatine	18	9	3	2	1	5	2	10	15	100		12	2000	73		45	410		24	11
Polk					4	6		14	9	16		26	2	80	26	81	91		17	8
Scott			1			33		15	41	72	4	10	193	216		5	216		33	13
Story						1			4	2						4	2			
Warren					5	46		20	29	112		2	16	20	12		75		21	8
Washington						1			12	22	3		74	38	7	12	86	100	1	
Webster					3	1		1	2	4			1	2	11	1	70		1	
No. Indiv.	20	9	9	6	77	315	5	188	1032	3753	109	160	3866	1417	1039	4261	2704	140	460	133
No. Counties	2	1	5	5	12	17	4	16	20	19	7	11	17	18	11	16	20	2	19	13

Table 2h. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Ho Wr	Se Wr	Ma Wr	Ru Cr	Bl Gr Fn	Ea Bl	Ve	Gr Ch Th	Sw Th	Wo Th	Am Ro	Gr Ca	No Mo	Br Th	Eu St	Ce Wa
Allamakee	1				1				2	9					21	4		1		
Appanoose	7				47				2	36				4	108	49	2	24	65	3
Benton	2				1					2					2	2			2	
Boone	8				6			3	7	11			7		13	6	3		15	
Cerro Gordo	1				1			1		1	1	1	3	1	1	4		1	1	
Clay	1				29		1	4	1	6		3	10		55	17		11	103	
Clinton	5				86	3	5		15	9		3	8	8	207	71	3	260	22	
Dallas	2				17					10					17	5	4	75	8	
Decatur	3			2	11			1	5	16			2		13	4	4	29	2	
Jackson	3	1			6	1			10	3			1		67	7		30	2	
Jefferson	3				16	6	2			4			3		16	19	7	49	1	
Johnson	8			1	57			3	6	19			2	4	107	76	14	130	4	
Louisia	200	9	31		600		21		50	200	9	11	80	25	3000	400	6	210	10000	40
Muscatine	5		2		17			3	3	17	2		1	2	35	16		12	40	6
Polk	10		1		41				2				19		78	9	4	96	14	
Scott	12				47			1	3	2	1		5	1	98	36	5	131	6	
Story					2					3					15	2			4	
Warren	5				81				9	62			1		207	39	2	12	101	17
Washington					5					16					82	9		4	92	
Webster	2				5				3	1					12	5	2	1		
No. Indiv.	1	278	10	37	1076	11	29	16	118	427	13	18	142	45	4154	780	10	3211	2224	123
No. Counties	1	18	2	5	20	4	4	7	14	19	4	4	13	7	20	20	3	17	19	11

Table 2i. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	BI	Go	Or	Na	No	Ch	Ca	Ye	BT	BI	Ye	Pi	Pa	Ba	BI	BL
	Wi	Wi	Te	Cr	Pa	Ye	Ma	Ru	Gr	Wa	Th	Wa	Wa	Br	Po	Ce
	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Pa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa
Allamakee					3	4	1	1	1							2
Appanoose		34														4
Benton	1				1											
Boone		15								2				1		1
Cerro Gordo		10		3		2	2	1	1	1			2		1	1
Clay		10		2	1	12	2	22					1		4	1
Clinton	3	2	21	1		12	3	8		2		1	6		7	3
Dallas		3				3	1	1								2
Decatur		3		1		2										1
Jackson		1				4										
Jefferson		42		4		1									1	1
Johnson		38		1		16	4	1	1	1	1		1	1		2
Louisia	41	6	350	21	17	105	23	34	3	2	7			3	6	8
Muscatine		18		6	4	1										3
Polk		1	44	1		4	1						1			1
Scott		40				12	2	2	1							
Story						2										
Warren	1	27		12	2	7		2					1			2
Washington						2										1
Webster		4				2										2
No. Indiv.	46	9	660	1	52	28	191	37	50	3	35	6	11	4	1	20
No. Counties	4	3	16	1	10	6	17	7	9	1	6	5	4	3	1	11

Table 2j. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	Wo				Ye												Cl				La			
	Am	Pro	Ea	Wa	No	Lo	Ke	Mo	Co	Ho	Wi	Ca	Br	Su	Sc	Ea	Ch	Co	Fi	Ve	Sp	La	Sp	
Allamakee	2	2			5	1	3	73								1	7		5					
Appanoose														2	4	29			18					
Benton																								
Boone																								
Cerro Gordo	1				1	3		4									9		2					
Clay	9				3			5			2						2	1			2			
Clinton	66	2			3	2		38			3						3		5	1		2		
Dallas	2	1						13			4			9	3	60		1	19	1				
Decatur					2	1		4						1	1	7			2					
Jackson	6	6			1			8						2	3	7			3					
Jefferson	3							15						3	4	15			2					
Johnson	47	2			2	2		23			2			3	2	25			11			1		
Louisa	41	29	2		39	1		190			21	55	2	4	11	88	250	5	220	55		110		
Muscatine	1							3									10		3					
Polk	3				2	2		4			1						13		1					
Scott	16	3			2			30			1		1	3	3	16			3					
Story																								
Warren	1				8			35			2		2	4	4	63			9	2	4			
Washington								1									8		1					
Webster	5							5							2	2	7		2					
No. Indiv.	202	46	2	66	14	50	14	3	456	1	37	56	6	4	40	109	545	7	312	64	118			
No. Counties	13	8	1	10	8	4	4	2	17	1	9	2	4	1	10	10	19	3	16	7	5			

Table 2k. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	Sa		Gr		He		Le		So		Li		Sw		Wh		Wh		Ha		Da		No		Ro		Gl		In		Di		Bo		Re		Wi		Ea		Me																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
	Sp		Sp		Sp		Sp		Sp		Sp		Sp		Th	Sp	Th	Sp	Ha	Sp	Cr	Ey	Ju	Ca	Br	Gr	Br	Gr	Bu	Bu																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											

Table 21. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2000

	We	M'	Ye	Co	Gr	Br	Or	Ba	Ho	Am	Ho	Eu
	Me	lark	He	Co	Ta	He	Or	Or	Fi	Go	Sp	Tr
		sp	Bl	Gr	Gr	Co	Or	Or				Sp
Allamakee	20			118		5						
Appanoose						88	2	45	10	269	63	
Benton				1		1		2	1	11		
Boone	4		14	11	2	19		7	1	11	12	
Cerro Gordo	2		4	30		2		3	1	3	25	
Clay	7		12	187	4	57	1	11	4	14	35	
Clinton	2		20	340		79	1	78	17	65	243	
Dallas	1		3	29		12		6	1	20	25	
Decatur	11			29		11		8		12	116	
Jackson		2	5	21		15		29	4	20	37	
Jefferson				8		37	1	16	4	5	15	
Johnson	4	14		70		60	2	55	6	82	150	
Louisa	60		32	2100		2000	55	350	220	500	9000	300
Muscatine			1	110		16		88	4	25	41	
Polk	3		6	67		12		17	6	16	24	
Scott	2			125		51	1	37	35	52	65	
Story	1		2			17		2		10	2	
Warren	14	10	4	216		35	1	41	9	75	242	
Washington				89		14	1	23	2	89		
Webster			20	14	2	8		10	1	12	5	
No. Indiv.	131	26	121	3567	13	2539	65	828	326	1293	10100	300
No. Counties	13	3	11	19	4	20	9	19	17	20	17	1

Table 3. Species reported on only one or two Iowa Spring Bird Counts — 2000

Eared Grebe	Cerro Gordo (6)
American Bittern	Louisa (2)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Clinton (2), Louisa (11)
Ross's Goose	Cerro Gordo (1)
Canvasback	Johnson (1), Louisa (4)
Redhead	Cerro Gordo (5), Johnson (1)
Osprey	Appanoose (1)
Mississippi Kite	Johnson (1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	Louisa (2)
Broad-winged Hawk	Clinton (2), Louisa (11)
Swainson's Hawk	Dallas (1)
Peregrine Falcon	Louisa (1)
Gray Partridge	Cerro Gordo (2)
Ruffed Grouse	Allamakee (2)
Common Moorhen	Johnson (1), Louisa (3)
Sandhill Crane	Jackson (2), Scott (2)
American Avocet	Appanoose (1)
Willet	Cerro Gordo (1), Polk (1)
Upland Sandpiper	Appanoose (2), Louisa (2)
Marbled Godwit	Polk (3)
Ruddy Turnstone	Clay (2)
Common Snipe	Louisa (2)
American Woodcock	Johnson (1), Louisa (7)
Red-necked Phalarope	Story (3)
Common Tern	Clinton (2), Louisa (3)
Black-billed Cuckoo	Johnson (1), Louisa (8)
Eastern Screech-Owl	Cerro Gordo (1), Johnson (2)
Long-eared Owl	Scott (1)
Short-eared Owl	Jefferson (1)
Chuck-will's-widow	Louisa (3)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Cerro Gordo (1), Jackson (2)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Clay (1), Webster (1)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Clinton (6)
Western Kingbird	Webster (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Johnson (2), Louisa (18)
White-eyed Vireo	Louisa (9)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Clay (1)

Table 3. Continued

Brown Creeper	Jackson (1), Louisa (9)
Orange-crowned Warbler	Polk (1)
Cape May Warbler	Louisa (3)
Pine Warbler	Clinton (1)
Worm-eating Warbler	Louisa (2)
Mourning Warbler	Dallas (1), Johnson (2)
Hooded Warbler	Scott (1)
Canada Warbler	Johnson (1), Louisa (55)
Summer Tanager	Louisa (4)
Henslow's Sparrow	Appanoose (1), Louisa (8)
Le Conte's Sparrow	Appanoose (1)
Dark-eyed Junco	Jackson (2)
Blue Grosbeak	Appanoose (1), Louisa (18)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Louisa (300)

Table 4. Compilers for Iowa Spring Bird Counts — 2000

COUNTY	COMPILER	LOCATION
Allamakee	Patrick Burke	DeKalb, IL
Appanoose	William G. Cummings	Centerville
Benton	Ann Harrison	Vinton
Boone	Karl Jungbluth	Boone
Cerro Gordo	Carolyn Fischer	Mason City
Clay	Lee A. Schoenewe	Spencer
Clinton	Kelly McKay	Hampton, IL
Dallas	Maridel Jackson	Ankeny
Decatur	Robert Cecil	Des Moines
Jackson	Ulf Konig	Maquoketa
Jefferson	Dave Killman	Fairfield
Johnson	Chris Caster	Coralville
Louisa	Corey T. Blevins	Davenport
Muscatine	Mary Lou Petersen	Bettendorf
Polk	Pam and Reid Allen	West Des Moines
Scott	Ann Barker	Davenport
Story	Hank Zaletel	Nevada
Warren	Sue Spieker	Norwalk
Washington	Edwin Lins	Washington
Webster	Mark Proescholdt	Liscomb

Field Reports — Fall 2000

James L. Fuller

WEATHER

The mild weather pattern of June and July ended in August, when below normal temperatures occurred only twice, during early and mid-month. The end of August produced very hot conditions, with triple digit temperatures at many locations. In the western part of the state, very dry conditions also continued with some areas classified in the severe drought category. Early September produced the very hot conditions of August, but by mid-month temperatures fluctuated widely with 24-hour differences of as much as 70 degrees. A hard freeze occurred in western portions of the state on the 21st. Extremely dry conditions continued in the northwest half of the state, while the heavy rains on the 22nd produced near normal precipitation in the southeast.

October was generally warmer and drier than normal. Nevertheless, the entire state experienced record low temperatures and a hard freeze on the 7th, 8th, and 9th. But the latter half of the month was quite warm and there were no freezing temperatures in the state. Rainfall patterns were reversed with low precipitation amounts in portions of the east, and above normal in the northwest. November was colder and wetter than normal. Even though the month began quite mildly, temperatures averaged 5.2 degrees below normal for the entire month. Sioux City experienced eight straight days when temperatures failed to reach the freezing level, and 22 consecutive days of below normal readings. The first subzero temperature occurred on the 20th at Spencer. Two large storms during the first week brought most of the month's precipitation, including up to four inches of snow in the northwest. Two mid-month storms also plastered the northwest with significant snowfall, as much as 20 inches total in Lyon County.

GENERAL TRENDS

With the warmer than normal October, waterfowl arrived later than usual. It is interesting to note that on 31 Oct, there were virtually no waterfowl at Saylorsville or Red Rock reservoirs, but by 2



J. L. Fuller

Nov thousands were present. In contrast, large numbers of gulls arrived earlier than normal.

Low water levels at wetlands and lakes provided the habitat necessary for a good shorebird migration. With the exception of Snowy Egret, numbers of regular or vagrant wading birds that wander into the state during post breeding dispersal, were minimal.

The Hitchcock N.A. and Grammer Grove W.A. hawkwatches along the Missouri River in Pottawattamie County and the Iowa River corridor in Marshall County have provided valuable information about raptor species and numbers. The most remarkable statistic of this fall was the 38 Mississippi Kites that passed by Hitchcock, which causes us to wonder about their origin.

Generally, winter finches and irruptive winter birds did not have a good showing, although some Red Crossbills were reported in November.

November snows in northwest Iowa provided visibility for large and numerous flocks of open country birds: Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings.

Judging by the number of reports, Carolina Wren is a bird that seems to be thriving, even advancing, in the state, while in contrast, the Gray Partridge population seems to be declining.

It seems that early and late records would sometime soon run into the law of diminishing returns, but once again that wasn't the case, as ten record dates were extended and a number of other top three early and late dates were recorded.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported were Swallow-tailed Kite, Common Black-Hawk, Jaeger species, Rufous Hummingbird, and Pygmy Nuthatch. Casual species included Red Knot, Black-headed Gull, Mew Gull, California Gull, and Bohemian Waxwing. Unusually early were Thayer's Gull and Connecticut Warbler, and unusually late were Mississippi Kite, Swainson's Hawk, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Grasshopper Sparrow. An Osprey nest discovered at Cayler Prairie in Dickinson County is significant as the first nesting attempt in the state by that species.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

Red-throated Loon: The only report was a juv. at Red Rock Res. on 18 and 21 Oct (AB-details, RLC, found by Chuck Fuller on 14 Oct) [2nd earliest].

Pacific Loon: All: 1 at Spirit L. on 4 Nov (*LAS) and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 19 Nov (*DT, JJD-details, BE-details).

Common Loon: August reports were 1 alternate and 3 basic at Spirit L. on 5 Aug (ETh) and 2 at Spirit L. on 18 Aug (SJD, JJD). High count: 32 on 4 Nov at Red Rock Res. (MPr).

Pied-billed Grebe: High Count: 110 on 22 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Horned Grebe: First: 9 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH, RGo). Last: 19 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC). High count: 17 at L. Manawa on 20 Oct (BKP/LJP). From 1 to 7 birds were reported from 10 other locations.

Red-necked Grebe: The only report was 2 at West Okoboji on 18 Nov (LAS).

Eared Grebe: All: 1 at Big Creek S.P. on 8 Nov (AB), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 14 Nov (AB), 1 at West Okoboji on 18 Nov (LAS), and 2 at Rathbun Res. on 19 Nov (RLC).

Western Grebe: First: 3 on 5 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last: 17 Nov at Prairie Lakes in Black Hawk Co. (TS). There were 6 other reports of 1 to 3 birds from Dickinson, Jasper, Marion, and Pottawattamie counties (LAS, MPr, AB, BKP/LJP).

American White Pelican: High counts: 2,600 at Coralville Res. on 16 Aug (SJD, AB) and 3,500 at Saylorville Res. on 3 Sep (BE). There were still 34 on 30 Nov at Lock &

Dam 19 at Keokuk (JLF). What a difference from 20 years ago when these birds were rare in the state.

Double-crested Cormorant: High counts: 1,400 on 17 Sep at Coralville Res. (MCD), 1,579 on 24 Sep at Saylorville Res. (BE), 1,000 at MidAmerican Ponds on 24 Sep (BKP/LJP), and 5,075 on 10 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AB), where there were still 2,000 in rafts on 12 Nov (THK).

American Bittern: All: Singles on 1 Oct at Sedan Wetlands in Appanoose Co. (RLC, TNJ), 15 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC), and 20 Oct in Madison Co. (EIA/EuA).

Great Blue Heron: High count: 103 at Red Rock Res. on 21 Sep (AB).

Great Egret: High count: 75 on 16 Aug at Coralville Res. (SJD, AB). Singles lingered into November at Mason City on the 2nd (CJF) and Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. on the 13th (MPr).

Snowy Egret: All: 1 ad. at Saylorville Res. on 13-25 Aug (SJD, BE, JJD, AB, PHA/RIA), 2 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Sep (AB), 1 at Badger Creek L. in Madison Co. on 20 Sep (EIA/EuA), 1 at MidAmerican Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 20 Sep, 1 imm. on 22 to 30 Sep at Lost Island M. in Palo Alto Co. (THK, MCK, LAS), and 1 on 2 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK) [3rd latest].

Little Blue Heron: Only report: 2 at Saylorville Res. on 19 Aug (BE).

Cattle Egret: High count: 14 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Sep (AB) and also 14 on 20 Sep at MidAmerican Ponds (BKP/LJP). Last: 2 on 4 Nov at Waterloo (TS).

- Green Heron:** There were 6 in Warren Co. on 27 Aug (JSi). Last: 24 Oct at Bacon Creek P. in Sioux City (BFH) [2nd latest].
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** There were reports of 1 to 4 birds from 8 locations. One bird found in a yard at Webb in Clay Co. on 18 Nov was delivered to a wildlife rehabilitator (LAS). Last: 1 ad. on 28 Nov at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids (THK).
- Ibis species:** All: 1 found dead in Webster Co. on 25 Aug is now a specimen at Iowa State Univ. (JJD), 1 at the Coralville Res. on 2 to 4 Sep (MCD, JLF), and 2 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 22 and 23 Sep (PH, RGo).
- Turkey Vulture:** High count: 186 at Hitchcock N.A. on 1 Oct, where the last was seen on 3 Nov (MOr).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** High count: 210 at Runnells W.A. on 26 Oct (AB).
- Snow Goose:** There were 2 on 12 Aug at Little Swan L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). High count: 100,000 at DeSoto N.W.R. on 18 Nov (BFH).
- Ross's Goose:** All: 2 ad. and 1 imm. were at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. on 17 Nov (BFH) and 1 was on Pool 9 of the Mississippi R. in Allamakee Co. on 18 Nov (*FL, CJF-details, JLW, JLF).
- Mute Swan:** All: 1 imm. at Easter L. in Des Moines on 8 Oct (AB), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 26 Nov (BE), and 1 ad. in Lee Co. on 30 Nov (JLF).
- Trumpeter Swan:** There were 8 reports of 1 to 11 birds from Buena Vista, Cass, Dickinson, Johnson, Kossuth, and Polk counties (THK, MAP, DHe, LAS, MCD, AB). All but one report described green, red, or yellow neck or leg bands.
- Tundra Swan:** First: 4 on 27 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (Refuge staff fide MCK). High count: 600 at staging area on Pool 9 of the Mississippi R. on 18 Nov (JLF). Last: 2 ad. on 22 Nov at Red Rock Res. (MPR-details).
- Gadwall:** High count: 7,000 at Red Rock Res. on 7 Nov (AB).
- American Wigeon:** High count: 110 at Red Rock Res. on 18 Oct (AB).
- American Black Duck:** All 7 reports were from November of 1 to 3 birds at locations in the eastern half of the state.
- Mallard:** High counts: 9,000 at Red Rock Res. on 15 Nov (AB) and 35,000 at Saylorville Res. on 18 Nov (BE).
- Northern Shoveler:** High count: 2,500 at Spirit L. on 13 Nov (DCH).
- Green-winged Teal:** High count: 400 at Runnells W.A. on 1 Nov (AB).
- Northern Pintail:** High count: 1,400 at Runnells W.A. on 26 Oct (AB).
- Canvasback:** High count: 10,000 on Pool 19 of the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. on 30 Nov (JLF).
- Greater Scaup:** All: 1 at Saylorville Res. on 29 Oct (BE), 1 female at Saylorville Res. on 13 Nov (AB), 2 at West Okoboji on 18 Nov (LAS), and 3 females at Pleasant Creek R.A. in Linn Co. on 19 Nov (CE-details).
- Lesser Scaup:** High count: 5,000 at Saylorville Res. (AB).
- Surf Scoter:** All: 1 female/imm. at Spirit L. on 18 Oct (LAS) and 1 female at West Okoboji on 18 Nov (LAS).
- White-winged Scoter:** 1 female/imm. at W. Okoboji on 18 Nov (LAS).
- Black Scoter:** 1 female at Saylorville Res. on 14 Nov (PHA/RIA, found by AB).

Long-tailed Duck: 1 female at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. on 20 to 30 Nov (MPR-details).

Common Goldeneye: First: 11 on 9 Nov at MidAmerican Ponds (BKP/LJP).

Bufflehead: High count: 131 at Red Rock Res. on 15 Nov (AB).

Hooded Merganser: High count: 145 at Polk City WA. on 12 Nov (DT).

Common Merganser: 2 on 18 Aug below the Red Rock Res. dam were record late departures, with only one previous August date (MPR) [record late departure]. High count: 250 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Nov (PWA).

Red-breasted Merganser: First: 4 Nov at a Johnson Co. quarry (MCD).

Ruddy Duck: First: 1 on 5 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). High count: 5,000 at Spirit L. on 4 Nov (LAS), noted as the most in memory there (DCH).

Osprey: First: 29 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last: 29 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE). High count: 36 at hawkwatch at Hitchcock N.A. on 24 Sep (MOR). One at Spirit L. on 6 Aug (ETH) and 2 at Cayler Pr. on 12 Aug (LAS) were probably birds associated with a nest discovered on a utility standard at Cayler Pr. on 8 Aug by Maury Muhm. This is the first nesting attempt in the state by this species.

Swallow-tailed Kite: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Mississippi Kite: All: 1 ad. at the Saylorville Res. dam on 12 Sep (AB). Hitchcock N.A. hawkwatch in Pottawattamie Co. recorded their first on 15 Aug, a peak of 14 on 24 Sep, the last on 8 Oct [record latest], and a season's total of 38 (MOR). Another late bird was at Algona on 4 Oct (MCK-details) [2nd latest].

Bald Eagle: High count: 114 at Hitchcock N.A. hawkwatch on 19 Nov, with a season's total of 295 (MOR). The Grammer Grove hawkwatch in Marshall Co. recorded their second highest season total of 127 (BPr). A "fine migration in the Rock R. valley in Sioux Co." recorded 24 on 24 Nov (JV).

Northern Harrier: High count: 34 on 14 and 21 Oct at the Hitchcock N.A., with a season's total of 229 (MOR). A season's total of 58 was recorded at Grammer Grove (BPr).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: High count: 126 on 21 Oct at Hitchcock N.A., where the season's total was 944 (MOR).

Cooper's Hawk: High count: 39 on 24 Sep at Hitchcock N.A., where the season's total was 198.

Northern Goshawk: All: First: 24 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (MOR-details). Single imm. birds were at Algona on 13 Nov (MCK-details), West Okoboji on 15 Nov (LAS), Oneota P. in Clay Co. on 25 Nov (LAS), and Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov. (AB). High count: 5 on 19 Nov at Hitchcock N.A., where the season's total was 15 (MOR-details).

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were more than the usual number. The season's total at hawkwatches were 7 at Hitchcock N.A. (MOR) and 6 at Grammer Grove (BPr). There were 8 other reports of 1 to 2 birds from Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Clay, Kossuth, and Louisa counties (MPR, TS, LAS, MCK, JLF).

Common Black-Hawk: A report is referred to the Records Committee.

Broad-winged Hawk: First: 3 Sep at Saylorville Res. (BE). High counts at the hawkwatches were 147 on 24 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (MOR) and

72 on 2 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr).

Swainson's Hawk: High count: 1,114 of the season's total of 1,451 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr). A record late report is referred to the Records Committee.

Red-tailed Hawk: High counts: 240 of the season's total 2,620 were on 4 Nov at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr), and 153 of the season's total of 747 on 27 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr). A Harlan's Hawk was at Grammer Grove on 21 Oct (MPr-details), and a Krider's Hawk was in Cerro Gordo Co. on 8 Nov (CJF). Hitchcock recorded 26 Harlan's Hawks and 3 Krider's Hawks for the season.

Rough-legged Hawk: High count: 5 on 19 Nov at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr).

Golden Eagle: First: 1 imm. on 23 Sep at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC). Season totals at the hawkwatches were 7 at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr) and 2 at Grammer Grove (BPr). Others were in Allamakee Co. on 11 Nov (TS) and Black Hawk Co. on 18 Nov (TS).

American Kestrel: High count: 8 at Hitchcock N.A. on 14 Oct (MOr).

Merlin: First: 16 Sep at New L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH). There were 17 additional reports of single birds from all areas of the state.

Peregrine Falcon: There were 17 reports of 1 to 2 birds at 9 locations, the majority of which were in or near the Des Moines and Cedar Rapids areas, where nesting took place. High count: 22 at Hitchcock N.A. on 1 Oct. The season total there was 43 (MOr). Last: 2 juv. on 17 Nov at Des Moines (AJ).

Prairie Falcon: All: Single birds were at Hitchcock N.A. on 21 Oct and 11 Nov (MOr-details), and 1 was in Sioux Co. on 27 Oct (JV).

Gray Partridge: The only 2 reports were from Winnebago Co. on 17 Aug (SJD, JJD) and Emmet Co. on 19 Oct (DHe).

Ruffed Grouse: The only report was 5 at Yellow River S.F. on 19 Nov (JLW).

Northern Bobwhite: A report of 2 at the Lime Creek A. in Buchanan Co. on 6 Sep (MPr) is unusual for its northern Iowa location.

Virginia Rail: All: 1 to 2 at Zirbel Slough on 11 and 17 Sep (JLW), 1 at Red Rock Res. on 19 Sep (AB), and 1 at Blue Wing M. in Palo Alto Co. on 23 Sep (LAS). Last: 28 Sep at Zirbel Slough (RGo).

Sora: Last: 2 on 15 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (AB).

American Coot: High counts: 2,500 at Spirit L. on 22 Sep (THK) and 10,400 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Oct (BE).

Sandhill Crane: All: 2 on 16 Aug at Cardinal M. (DeC), 3 on 26 Oct near Otter Creek M. (MPr), and 1 on 21 Nov in Jefferson Co. (John Maguire fide DKi).

Black-bellied Plover: First: 3 Aug at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 3 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 9 at Saylorville Res. on 9 Oct (AB). Eleven other reports were from October.

American Golden-Plover: First: 19 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE). Last: 15 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 29 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 4 Oct (AB).

Semipalmated Plover: First: 6 on 7 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). High count: 21 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Aug (SJD).

Piping Plover: All: 3 at the Coralville Res. on 1 and 2 Aug (MCD-details, MPr, JLF) and 1 ad. was at the MidAmerican Ponds on 13 Aug (SJD).

Killdeer: High count: 302 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Aug (SJD, JJD, JSi).

American Avocet: All: 1 at Coralville Res. on 2 to 18 Aug (MPr, MCD, CE, JLF, SJD), 2 at Dunbar Slough on 12 to 21 Sep (EIA/EuA, THK), 15 at Saylorville Res. on 1 Oct (JJD, BE), and 1 at the Runnells W.A. on 3 Oct (AB).

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 2 on 7 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last: 2 Nov at Saylorville Res. (AB). High count: 35 at Saylorville Res. on 14 Sep (AB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: On 7 Aug, 11 were in Dickinson Co. (JJ) and 35 in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). High count: 122 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Aug (SJD).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 2 Aug at Horseshoe Bend in Dickinson Co. (JJ). High count: 19 were not solitary at Union Slough N.W.R. on 17 Aug (SJD, JJD).

Willet: All: 2 at Coralville Res. on 1 Aug (MCD-details) and 1 at Welch L. W.P.A. in Dickinson Co. on 17 Aug (SJD, JJD).

Ruddy Turnstone: All: 2 alternate ad. at MidAmerican Ponds on 13 Aug (SJD), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Aug (BE) and 27 Aug (DT), and 2 at Coralville Res. on 3 Sep (CE).

Red Knot: A juv. was at Sandpiper Beach at Saylorville Res. on 20 Aug (*SJD, *JJD).

Sanderling: First: 13 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE). Last: 5 on 22 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE). High count: 26 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Sep (AB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: High count: 225 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 26 Aug (PH).

Western Sandpiper: All: Singles at Polk City W.A. on 12 Aug (MPr-details) and 2 to 4 Oct at Saylorville Res. (AB-details).

Least Sandpiper: Last: 27 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB). High count: 450 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 26 Aug (PH).

White-rumped Sandpiper: All: 2 were in Cerro Gordo Co. on 7 Aug (PH).

Baird's Sandpiper: Last: 2 on 27 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB-details) [record latest]. High count: 13 at L. Macbride on 4 Sep (MCD-details).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: 19 Nov at the Coralville Res. (CE). High count: 1,000 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 26 Aug (PH).

Dunlin: First: 2 on 24 Sep at MidAmerican Ponds (BKP/LJP). Last: 4 on 16 Nov at L. Macbride (JLF). High count: 51 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Oct (AB).

Stilt Sandpiper: Last: 8 on 31 Oct at Zirbel Slough (*RGo) [record latest]. High count: 202 at Saylorville Res. on 2 Sep (BE). There were multiple reports from 8 locations.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: First: 2 Aug at Polk City W.A. (MPr). High count: 146 at Saylorville Res. on 2 Sep (BE). The number of reports for this species has increased the past few years, and there were 18 records this year.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Last: 3 on 16 Sep at New L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH-details).

- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Last: 10 on 29 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 80 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 16 Sep (MCK).
- Common Snipe:** High count: 22 on 26 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). 8 on 30 Nov in Lee Co. (JLF).
- American Woodcock:** Last: 23 Nov at L. Ahquabi (JSi).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** All: 7 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), 2 on 19 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE), 9 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), and 10 Sep at Coralville Res. (MCD-details).
- Red-necked Phalarope:** First: 18 Aug at Coralville Res. (MCD). Last: 1 juv. on 9-14 Oct at Saylorville Res. (AB-details, BE) [3rd latest]. High count: 9 at Hale's Slough in Dickinson Co. on 23 Sep (THK). Widely reported with 1-3 birds at 6 locations.
- Jaeger species:** A juv. was on the Mississippi R. below Lock & Dam 19 at Keokuk on 22 Nov (*JLF, found by Justin Rink on 21 Nov).
- Franklin's Gull:** Last: 18 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BE). High counts: 13,000 at Mud L. in Palo Alto Co. on 16 Sep (LAS), 10,000 at Rathbun Res. on 1 Oct (RLC), and 6,000 at the Saylorville Res. on 22 Oct (BE).
- Black-headed Gull:** 1 basic ad. was present at the north end of Spirit L. from 7 Oct to 11 Nov (*LAS, *PS, PHA/RIA-photo, ETH-details).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** First: 1 basic ad. on 17 Aug at Clear L. (SJD, JJD). Last: 6 on 19 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 110 at Big Creek S.P. on 6 Nov (AB).
- Ring-billed Gull:** There were 450 at Saylorville Res. as early as 6 Aug (BE).
- Mew Gull:** 1 ad. was at Red Rock Res. 30 Oct to 14 Nov (*MCD, *AB, *JLF, *MPr).
- California Gull:** 1 first basic was at the Red Rock Res. dam on 23 Oct (*AB).
- Herring Gull:** Only 1 imm. bird was reported in August, on the 19th at Red Rock Res. (MPr).
- Thayer's Gull:** First: 1 juv. on 16 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AB-details) [record earliest by 8 days]. There were 8 additional reports of single birds that were either juv. or ad. from 6 locations. Is this bird increasing its numbers, or are observers more attune to identifying it in the field?
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Red Rock Res. was the location for both sightings, an ad. on 10 Oct (*AB) and a first basic bird on 14 Nov (*AB).
- Glaucous Gull:** First: 1 first basic at Lock & Dam 18 in Des Moines Co. (JLF) [2nd earliest]. There were 5 more November sightings, all of first basic birds: at Red Rock Res. on 16 Nov (AB), L. Minnewashta in Dickinson Co. on 18 Nov (LAS), Lock & Dam 19 in Lee Co. on 22 Nov (JLF), West Okoboji on 26 Nov (LAS), and Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (AB).
- Sabine's Gull:** All: 1 juv. was at Pleasant Creek R.A. in Linn Co. on 5 Oct (*MCD) and a juv. was at L. Manawa on 10 Oct (BKP/LJP).
- Caspian Tern:** First: 6 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE). Last: 1 imm. on 7 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AB). High count: 196 at Saylorville Res. on 10 Sep (BE).

Common Tern: All: 1 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Sep (BE), 2 in Appanoose Co. on 1 Oct (RLC), and 1 at Spirit L. on 7 Oct (LAS-details).

Forster's Tern: High count: 25 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Aug (BE).

Least Tern: All: 5 (3 ad. and 2 half-grown young) at MidAmerican Ponds on 13 Aug (SJD) and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 10 Sep (JJD).

Black Tern: High count: 14 at New L. in Woodbury Co. on 26 Aug (BFH).

Eurasian Collared-dove: Of the multiple sightings of the colony at Grinnell, the most birds seen were 5 on 30 Nov. At Montgomery in Dickinson Co., 1 or 2 were recorded on 3 occasions.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Last: 10 Sep at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Last: 15 Oct at Red Bird Farms N.A. in Johnson Co. (MCD). Late nestings reported were a bird still on the nest on 29 Aug at Neal Smith N.W.R. (PHA/RIA-photo) and in Poweshiek Co. young fledged on 1 Sep (RV/CV).

Barn-Owl: 2 ad. and 5 juv. were in a barn in Washington Co. on 17 Aug (JLF).

Long-eared Owl: First: 20 Oct near Milford in Dickinson Co. (Dennis Phillips fide DCH). In Cerro Gordo Co., 1 or 2 birds were found at 7 sites from 25 Oct to 27 Nov (PH). A single bird was at Red Rock Res. on 30 Nov (AB).

Short-eared Owl: First: 29 Sep at Santee Pr. in Dickinson Co. (Maury Muhm fide DCH). There were 4 additional reports of 1 to 4 birds in Cerro Gordo, Jefferson, Van Buren, and Wayne counties (PH, DKi, AB).



Glaucous Gull at Fort Madison on 2 December 2000. Photo by Aaron Brees.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 at George Wyth S.P. on 7 and 8 Nov (TS), 1 at West Okobojo on 11 and 12 Nov (LAS, ETh), and 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 26 Nov (PH).

Common Nighthawk: Last: 14 Oct at West Des Moines (PHA/RIA). High count: 200 at Denison on 27 Sep (JJ).

Whip-poor-will: The only report was 1 on 14 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last: 11 Nov at a feeder in West Des Moines (PHA/RIA).

Rufous Hummingbird: 1 male on 7 Nov in Dubuque at the feeder of Eileen Jewett had been there for a month (*CW).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 at Wahpeton in Dickinson Co. on 10 Nov was far northwest (JJ).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A bird was last seen at a breeding location at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. on 28 Sep (BFH).

Northern Flicker: Large numbers were seen throughout the period (JSi) and 30 were in central Iowa on 21 Sep (THK). Red-shafted variet-

- ies were reported from Kossuth, Polk, and Warren counties (MCK, AB, JSi).
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Away from eastern Iowa, birds were reported from Hardin, Tama, Marshall, Lucas, and Clarke counties (MPr, JSi, AB).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First: 3 Aug at Spirit L. (ETh). Last: 30 Sep in Warren Co. (JSi).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Last: 14 Oct at Liscomb in Marshall Co. (MPr).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** First: 15 Aug at Burr Oak in Winneshiek Co. (DeC). Last: 24 Sep at Mini-Wakan S.P. (AJ, LAS). There were 6 other reports, all of single birds.
- Least Flycatcher:** All: 1 on 18 Aug at Marble L. in Dickinson Co. (SJD, JJD) and 1 on 24 Sep in Dickinson Co. (AJ).
- Eastern Phoebe:** Last: 8 Nov north of Iowa City (JLF).
- Western Kingbird:** The only report was 1 in Calhoun Co. on 18 Aug (SJD, JJD).
- Eastern Kingbird:** Last: 19 Sep north of Runnells in Polk Co. (AB).
- Northern Shrike:** First: 1 on 9 Oct in northeast Madison Co. (ELA, EuA) [3rd earliest]. There were 7 additional reports of single birds, all in November.
- Bell's Vireo:** All: 1 at Dog Creek P. in O'Brien Co. on 18 Aug (SJD, JJD), 4 in Van Buren Co. on 19 Aug (RLC), and 1 at Red Rock Res. on 19 Sep (AB).
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** All: 1 at Saylorville Res. on 10 Sep (BE) and 1 at Lime Creek A. in Buchanan Co. on 20 Sep (MPr).
- Blue-headed Vireo:** Last: 25 Nov on the Univ. of Iowa campus (*MCD) [record latest by 11 days].
- Warbling Vireo:** Last: 1 on 1 Oct at a birdbath in Matt Kenne's yard in Algona (MCK-details) [record latest].
- Philadelphia Vireo:** First: 4 Sep at Stephen's S.F. (AB). Last: 20 Sep at Lime Creek A. in Buchanan Co. (MPr).
- Red-eyed Vireo:** Last: 3 on 20 Sep at Lime Creek A. in Buchanan Co. (MPr).
- Blue Jay:** High count: 677 on 25 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).
- American Crow:** A summer roost on the Iowa State Univ. campus in Ames held 640 birds on 28 Aug (JJD).
- Horned Lark:** In extreme northwest Iowa, they were described as abundant, with countless flocks of 10 to 300 and 1 to 2 flocks per mile as a result of the early November snows (DCH).
- Purple Martin:** High count: 350 on 17 Aug along the south shore of Spirit L. (ETh).
- Tree Swallow:** Last: 26 Oct in Osceola Co. (ETh). High count: 2,000 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Aug (SJD, JJD, JSi).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Last: 26 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (AB).
- Cliff Swallow:** Last: 5 Oct at L. Manawa (LJP). High count: 1,000 at Cardinal M. on 4 Sep (DeC).
- Barn Swallow:** Last: 23 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AB).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** First: 1 on 4 Aug in Des Moines (BMi-details). There were 3 other reports of singles from Cerro Gordo, Kossuth, and Marshall counties (PH, MCK, MPr).
- Pygmy Nuthatch:** A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Brown Creeper: First: 2 on 6 Sep at Three Elms P. in Buchanan Co. (MPR). High count: 16 at Smith L. in Kossuth Co. on 20 Oct (MCK).

Carolina Wren: There were 18 reports of 1 or 2 birds. Those away from the southeast half of the state were at Hartman Reserve and George Wyth S.P. in Black Hawk Co. (TS), Pine L. in Hardin Co. (MPR), and Lost Island L. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS).

House Wren: Last: 15 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (AB).

Winter Wren: First: 5 Sep at Whitham Woods, Fairfield (DKI). There were 14 additional reports from as many locations.

Sedge Wren: Last: 3 on 23 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE). High count: 5 at the Coralville Res. on 25 Sep (CE).

Marsh Wren: Last: 2 on 26 Oct in Johnson Co. (MCD). High count: 15 at the Coralville Res. on 25 Sep (CE).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First: 2 on 26 Sep at Steamboat Rock Cemetery in Hardin Co. (MPR). High count: 40 at Smith W.A. in Kossuth Co. on 20 Oct (MCK).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 8 Sep at Pine L. (MPR). High count: 12 on 25 Sep at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Singles were reported from 3 locations on 28 Nov, including a window kill at Algona (MCK).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Last: 23 Sep at Mini-Wakan S.P. (THK).

Eastern Bluebird: 300 were considered migrants at the Grammer Grove hawkwatch in Marshall Co. on 22 Oct (BPR).

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 was along a hiking trail in Centerville on 24 and 25 Aug (RLC-details, TNJ).

Veery: Last: 29 Sep in Polk Co. (BE) [3rd latest].

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Last: 15 Oct at Riverview Cemetery in Algona (MCK-details) [record latest].

Swainson's Thrush: First: 5 Sep at Pine L. (MPR). Last: 21 Oct at Liscomb in Marshall Co. (MPR-details).

Hermit Thrush: First: 4 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR) and Parker's Woods in Mason City (RGo). Last: 2 on 26 Nov at L. Ahquabi (JSi). High count: 7 at Smith W.A. in Kossuth Co. on 20 Oct (MCK).

Wood Thrush: The only report was 1 at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. on 1 Sep (BFH).

American Robin: High count: 1,100 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Oct (BE).

Gray Catbird: Last: Singles on 22 Oct in Warren Co. (JSi) and at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Northern Mockingbird: All: Single birds were at Cordova P. in Marion Co. on 26 Oct (AB) and along a roadside in O'Brien Co. on 21 Nov (LAS).

Brown Thrasher: 1 lingered below the dam at the Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (AB).

American Pipit: First: 8 on 1 Oct at Errington M. in Polk Co. (PWa). Last: 25 Nov along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. (LAS). There were 13 other reports from multiple locations.

Bohemian Waxwing: 1 was with a flock of Cedar Waxwings at Marble Beach S.P. in Dickinson Co. on 11 Nov (*LAS).

Blue-winged Warbler: Last: 10 Sep at Greenwood P. in Des Moines (RIC). A Brewster's hybrid was also at Greenwood P. in Des Moines on 10 Sep (RIC).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 2 on 16 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 14 Sep at Burr Oak in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).

Tennessee Warbler: First: 2 on 15 Aug at Parker's Woods in Mason City (RGo). Last: 18 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 29 Aug at Parker's Woods in Mason City (RGo). Last: 31 Oct at Algona (MCK).

Nashville Warbler: First: 17 Aug at Myre Sl. in Winnebago Co. (SJD, JJD). Last: 17 Oct at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. (BFH). High count: 20 on 5 Sep at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Northern Parula: Last: 27 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Yellow Warbler: Last: 1 male on 24 Sep at Lost Island M. in Palo Alto Co. (MCK).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 15 Aug at Parker's Woods in Mason City (RGo). Last: 21 Sep at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. (MPr).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 2 on 16 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 24 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Cape May Warbler: First: 17 Sep at Liscomb Cemetery in Marshall Co. (MPr). On 3 Nov, 1 appeared in a Cedar Rapids yard, and is presumably the same bird that wintered there last year. It must like the hospitality. (M. Joyce Miller fide THK). The bird was still present on 28 Nov (THK).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 1 on 28 Aug at Hartman Reserve in Black Hawk Co. (TS), 1 female on 28 Aug at Kindlespire P. in Clay Co. (LAS), 1 female at Lakin Slough in Guthrie Co. (DT), 2 on 21 Sep at George Wyth S.P. (TS), and 1 on 24 Sep in Dickinson Co. (AJ).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 9 Sep at Liscomb Cemetery in Marshall Co. (MPr). Last: 4 on 26 Nov at L. Ahquabi (JSi). High count: 250 at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. on 22 Sep (AB).

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 16 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 30 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 15 Aug at Parker's Woods in Mason City (RGo). Last: 25 Sep at Decorah (DeC).

Palm Warbler: First: 10 Sep at Liscomb Cemetery in Marshall Co. (MPr). Last: 22 Oct at Coralville Res. (MCD).

Bay-breasted Warbler: First: 18 Aug at Rahbusch Tract in O'Brien Co. (SJD, JJD). Last: 14 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Blackpoll Warbler: First: 20 Sep at Lime Creek A. in Buchanan Co. (MPr). Last: 1 on 8 Oct in a backyard in Spencer (LAS-details) [3rd latest].

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 2 on 15 Aug at Parker's Woods in Mason City (RGo). Last: 27 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB). High count: 12 in Van Buren Co. on 19 Aug (RLC).

American Redstart: Last: 2 on 20 Sep at Lime Creek A. in Buchanan Co. (MPr). High count: 18 at Burr Oak in Winneshiek Co. on 15 Aug (DeC).

Prothonotary Warbler: The only report was 1 at MacNider Woods in Mason City on 8 Sep (CJF).

Worm-eating Warbler: 1 was in Van Buren Co. on 19 Aug (RLC).

Ovenbird: Last: 21 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (THK).

Northern Waterthrush: First: 16 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Louisiana Waterthrush: The only report was 2 on 19 Aug in Van Buren Co. (RLC).

Kentucky Warbler: 1 was at the Coralville Res. on 3 Aug (CE).

Connecticut Warbler: All: Singles were at Grammer Grove W.A. on 20 Aug (BPr) [ties record earliest] and in Poweshiek Co. on 16 Sep (RV/CV).

Mourning Warbler: First: 18 Aug at Three Elms Access in Buchanan Co. (MPr) and West Okoboji (SJD, JJD). Last: 27 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB-details).

Common Yellowthroat: Last: 15 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 18 Aug at West Okoboji (SJD, JJD). Last: 30 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Canada Warbler: First: 15 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 10 Sep, with 2 at the Saylorville Res. (BE) and 1 at Liscomb in Marshall Co. (MPr).

Yellow-breasted Chat: The only report was 1 at MacNider Woods in Mason City on 2 Oct (CJF).

Summer Tanager: All: Singles were at Stephen's S.F. in Lucas Co. on 30 Aug and 4 Sep (AB) and 3 Sep (JSi). Last: 20 Sep at Parker's Woods in Mason City (*RGo).

Scarlet Tanager: Last: 29 Sep north of Iowa City (JLF).

Spotted Towhee: First: 1 female on 24 Sep at Lost Island M. in Palo Alto Co. (MCK). A bird in Matt Kenne's backyard on 19 Oct to 2 Nov had some Eastern Towhee characteristics (MCK-details). There were 8 other reports of 1 or 2 birds.

Eastern Towhee: Last: 19-30 Nov at Algona (MCK). High count: 10 at Rolling Thunder Pr. in Warren Co. on 22 Oct (JSi).

American Tree Sparrow: First: 10 on 21 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Clay-colored Sparrow: The only report was 1 on 3 Oct in Mills Co. (BKP/LJP).

Field Sparrow: Last: 30 Oct at Algona (MCK).

Vesper Sparrow: Last: 26 Oct at Coralville Res. (MCD).

Savannah Sparrow: Last: 13 Nov at Smith L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Last: Late records were 1 on 26 Oct near Huxley (Paul Bystrak fide JJD) [ties 3rd latest] and 1 on 11 Nov at Spirit L. (LAS-details) [record latest].

Henslow's Sparrow: All: 1 on 16 Aug at Red Feather Pr. in Polk Co. and 5 on 19 Aug in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First: 1 juv. on 17 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Last: 4 Nov at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 40 at Maynard Reece W.P.A. in Kossuth Co. on 18 Oct (MCK). There were 11 other reports of 1-6 birds.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: First: 12 on 17 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Last: 22 Oct in Warren Co. (JSi). High count: 13 in Appanoose Co. on 1 Oct (RLC). There were 10 other reports of 1-7 birds.

- Fox Sparrow:** First: 24 Sep in Dickinson Co. (AJ). High count: 8 at the Saylorville Res. on 22 Oct (BE).
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** First: 1 on 3 Sep along the Des Moines R. in Dallas Co. (JJD-details) [3rd earliest]. Last: 9 Nov in an Algona backyard (MCK). High count: 10 at Twin Forks W.M.A. in Dickinson Co. on 20 Oct (DCH).
- Swamp Sparrow:** High count: 106 in Appanoose Co. on 1 Oct (RLC).
- White-throated Sparrow:** First: 11 on 26 Aug at Kettleson Hogsback in Dickinson Co. (JJ).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** First: 7 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE).
- Harris's Sparrow:** First: 7 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE). High count: 37 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Oct (BE).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** First: 24 Sep at Mini-Wakan SP (JSi). Pink-sided birds were noted in Kossuth, Polk, and Winneshiek counties (MCK, PWA, DeC).
- Lapland Longspur:** First: 30 on 18 Oct at Maynard Reece W.P.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK). In extreme northwest Iowa there were "many flocks of 50-300 with the early and heavy snows" (DCH). High count: 2,500 near Remsen in Plymouth Co. on 7 Nov (RIC).
- Smith's Longspur:** All: 5 on 18 Oct at Maynard Reece W.P.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK) and 7 on 4 Nov at Kettleson Hogsback W.P.A. in Dickinson Co. (LAS).
- Snow Bunting:** In extreme northwest Iowa, "Flocks of 25 to 100 were common following a second snow-storm in mid-November" (DCH). 300 were present in Emmet Co. on 22 Nov (DHe).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 10 on 20 Sep at Lime Creek A. in Buchanan Co. (MPr).
- Blue Grosbeak:** All: 1 on 2 Aug at the Coralville Res. (MPr-details), 1 male on 7 Aug near Alvord in Lyon Co. (DCH), and 1 male on 10 Aug near Ireton in Sioux Co. (DCH).
- Western Meadowlark:** Last: 4 on 22 Nov at Smith L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Last: 23 on 20 Sep at Saylorville Res. on 20 Sep (AB) and 2 in Clay Co. on 22 Sep (THK).
- Rusty Blackbird:** High count: 140 at Cardinal M. on 24 Oct (DeC).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** The only report was 180 in Appanoose Co. on 11 Nov (RLC-details).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** 200 were at the Runnells G.A. on 5 Nov (JSi).
- Common Grackle:** 1 was at a feeder in Cass Co. on 12 Nov (MAP).
- Purple Finch:** First: 2 on 30 Aug at Elk Creek W.M.A. in Worth Co. (CJF). High count: 50 at the Runnells G.A. and 50 at L. Ahquabi on 25 Nov (JSi).
- Red Crossbill:** There were 10 reports, including a flyover calling at Marble L. in Dickinson Co. on 18 Aug (SJD, JJD). High count: 22 at the Hooper G.A. in Warren Co. on 11 Nov (JSi), and 9 were there on 13 Nov (PHA/RIA). In Cerro Gordo Co. there were 12 on 4 Nov. (PH, RGo). The remaining reports were of 1 or 2 birds at feeders, mostly in the northwest part of the state. A stunned bird in Spencer was delivered to a wildlife rehabilitator (L. Slaymaker fide LAS).

Pine Siskin: First: 19 Sep at Riverview Cemetery in Algona (MCK). High count: 50 at Riverview Cemetery in Algona on 14 Oct (MCK).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: 1 was south of Iowa City in Johnson Co. on 2 Nov (MCD).

REPORTS RECEIVED (* = documentation only)

Pam H. Allen (PHA)/Reid I. Allen (RIA)	West Des Moines
Eloise Armstrong (EIA)/Eugene Armstrong (EuA)	Booneville
Aaron Brees (AB)	Indianola
Dennis Carter (DeC)	Decorah
Robert I. Cecil (RIC)	Des Moines
Ray L. Cummins (RLC)	Centerville
James J. Dinsmore (JJD)	Ames
Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD)	Fort Collins, CO
Michael C. Dooley (MCD)	Cedar Rapids
Chris Edwards (CE)	North Liberty
Bery Engebretsen, (BE)	Urbandale
Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF)	Mason City
James L. Fuller (JLF)	Iowa City
Rita Goranson (RGo)	Mason City
Douglas C. Harr (DCH)	Larchwood
Dennis Henrickson (DHe)	Estherville
Paul Hertzell (PH)	Mason City
Bill F. Huser (BFH)	South Sioux City, NE
Ann M. Johnson (AJ)	Norwalk
Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ)	Mystic
Jack Jones (JJ)	Sioux City
Matthew C. Kenne (MCK)	Algona
Thomas H. Kent (THK)	Iowa City
Dave Killman (DKi)	Fairfield
*Fred Leshner (FL)	LaCrosse, WI
Barbara Miller (BMi)	Des Moines
Mark Orsag (MOr)	Crete, NE
Babs K. Padelford (BKP)/Loren J. Padelford (LJP)	Bellevue, NE
Marietta A. Peterson (MAP)	Walnut
Beth Proescholdt (BPr)	Liscomb

Mark Proescholdt (MPr)	Liscomb
Lee A Schoenewe (LAS)	Spencer
Jim Sinclair (JSi)	Indianola
Tom Stone (TS)	Waterloo
*Peder Svingen (PS)	Duluth, MN
Ed Thelen (ETh)	Spirit Lake
John Van Dyk (JV)	Sioux Center
Robert Van Ersvelde (RV)/Connie Van Ersvelde (CV)	Grinnell
Phil Walsh (PWa)	Des Moines
Jan L. Walter (JLW)	Mason City
*Charles Winterwood (CW)	Dubuque

6 Longview Knoll N.E., Iowa City, IA 52240 (ioufuller@aol.com)

Tricolored Heron in Winneshiek County

James L. Fuller

On 29 April 2000 and again on 2 May, I observed an adult Tricolored Heron at Cardinal Marsh in Winneshiek County. The bird had been discovered and first reported to the Iowa Birdline on 27 April by Robert Chapman of Decorah. Cardinal Marsh is a large wetland complex with a number of individual ponds separated by dikes. Dick Tetrault and I arrived there shortly after 7 A.M. on 29 April, and met Mike and Dixie Overton in the parking lot.

We soon located the bird in the first pond we searched. It was wading along the edge of the west end, which was cluttered with small dead trees and brush. This was a small heron with a typical long neck and legs, which appeared to be an adult in breeding plumage. It was mostly a bluish-gray color on the upper parts with a

white lower breast and belly. The upper breast was purplish and it formed a V into the white below. The scapulars, which overlapped the wing, were fine, feathery, and a lighter pinkish-gray color. There were patches of more reddish feathers on the back of the neck and at the throat, and there was a thin white streak up the front of the neck. Whitish plumes issued from the back of the head. The bill was gray, but darker in the tip portion, dagger-shaped, and its length was roughly twice that of the width of the head. There was yellow skin in front of the dark eye. When the light was right, however, the eye appeared red. This bird might be confused with an adult Little Blue Heron, but on close examination that bird lacks any white on the neck or underparts, has a shorter, stockier bill, lacks lighter scapulars, and has a dark eye with no yellow skin in front of it.

There are only two previous sight records for Tricolored Heron in the state, both in the spring. A 1991 record from Louisa County on 30 April, and on 4 May 1992 a bird was seen in Pottawattamie County. The Tricolored Heron breeds in the southeastern United States along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. It also breeds from central Baja California south along both coasts to northern South America. It has been described as rare inland, but there is a breeding record from North Dakota in 1978 and it also has nested in central Kansas. This particular bird in breeding plumage was likely an overshoot. It lingered at Cardinal Marsh until 2 May.

6 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240 (ioufuller@aol.com)

Western Tanager in Mason City

Rita Goranson

On 1 May 2000, while birding in Parker's Woods, Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, I spotted a male Western Tanager. Parker's Woods is 15 acres of excellent migrant habitat because it has areas of dense foliage and underbrush with a creek running through the middle of the park. I had been monitoring the park for warblers. It was a sunny, warm day as I walked onto a side path that curved into the wooded area

and out again. As I was coming out on this path, I looked up and saw a bird, thrush-sized, perched on a branch in dense foliage. It was 20 feet in front of me. It was so distinctive with its reddish crown, face, and throat; its black back, tail, and wings; and its yellow breast, rump, and patch on the wing. It had a thick bill. I was quite certain that this was a Western Tanager.

The bird sat for a few seconds, as I was noting features, and then a woman and her dog walked by on the main path and frightened the bird, which flew. This happened at 9 A.M. in the morning and the tanager could not be relocated, despite several return visits that day.

The black wing with the yellow patch eliminated a Scarlet Tanager or a first-year Summer Tanager. I know of only two other sightings of a Western Tanager in Cerro Gordo County. According to *Birds in Iowa* and *Iowa Bird Life*, there have been about 16 sightings of the Western Tanager in Iowa over the past 40 years, with two-thirds of them occurring in the spring. Its usual boundaries are the western Dakotas, down through western Nebraska, central Colorado, and into central New Mexico.

115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, Iowa 50401 (ritag@mach3ww.com)

Book Review

Stephen J. Dinsmore

The Sibley Guide to Birds by David A. Sibley. Published by the National Audubon Society, October 2000. 544 pp., softbound, \$35.

The new book The Sibley Guide to Birds by David A. Sibley brings the standard field guide to a new level. Without question, this is the most comprehensive North American field guide available today. This book is slightly larger than the standard field guide and costs about twice as much, but the extra weight and cost are worthwhile.

The species accounts are presented in a very sensible format, although they are not organized in taxonomic order. At the beginning of each family of birds there is a nice summary (1 to 2 pages) that includes illustrations of all representative species, usually in difficult-to-identify plumages such as females (e.g., the waterfowl) or juveniles (e.g., the jaegers). Species are presented either one or two to a page. The illustrations are the real strength of this guide. Most species are covered by 6 to 8 drawings, but occasionally there are many more (e.g., 26 for Herring Gull). Plumage variations by age and sex are well covered, and there often are smaller drawings showing flight style (raptors), close-up head shots (gulls), diving motion (sea ducks and alcids), and much more. I think birders will enjoy the many subtle identification hints. For example, I didn't know that when exercising their wings, Black Scoters characteristically hold their head downward, unlike the other two scoter species. There is very little text in the species accounts. There is information on size, weight, sexual dimorphism (if present), the timing of various plumages, and voice for each species. Key field marks for the various ages and sexes are pointed out with arrows on the drawings. Each species account also includes a good range map showing breeding and wintering areas, migration routes, and records of vagrants. The maps have good detail and show all the state and provincial boundaries.

While this book is generally excellent, it does have a few shortcomings. Perhaps the most bothersome is the lack of text accompanying the species accounts. Nowhere is there a short paragraph that summarizes the field marks and other useful information such as habitat, separation from similar species, abundance, or perhaps some natural history.

While the illustrations are mostly well done, I did notice a few problems. The color tones for birds that are rufous or orange are sometimes slightly incorrect. This is particularly evident in the *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, some wrens, Brown Thrasher, and a few sparrows. For a few birds such as the rails and the nightjars, the shape of the birds seems wrong. I also was disappointed that more North American vagrants were not covered, especially given the large size of this book.

Another fault of this book is the range maps. Apparently, whoever reviewed the maps forgot to look at the latest reference on Iowa's birds (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). In a quick check of the maps, I noted there were no less than 20 species (5% of the state list)

recorded in Iowa prior to publication of this book, but not shown on the maps. Many of these are vagrants but a few occur regularly, e.g., American Avocet. Many of the maps had other errors. The migration route for Ross's Geese should include western and central Iowa, the winter range for Loggerhead Shrike is too far south (they winter all across southern Iowa), Tufted Titmice do not regularly occur in northwestern Iowa, and Swamp Sparrow definitely winters across southern Iowa. Two species shown as occurring in Iowa (Mountain Plover and Yellow Grosbeak) are not on the state list. Isolated Iowa breeding records for White-faced Ibis and Mississippi Kite are not shown. But perhaps the most glaring error in the maps is the range shown for Cassin's Kingbird, a regular and locally common breeder in eastern Wyoming, western Nebraska, southwestern South Dakota, and southeastern Montana! I certainly hope that the range maps are reviewed more carefully before a second edition is published.

A final complaint I have concerns the use of scientific names for well-known subspecies. Sibley avoids using these and instead refers to subspecies by geographic region. For example, Sibley labels the three well-known subspecies of Short-billed Dowitcher as "Pacific," "Prairie," and "Atlantic"; the popular subspecific names *caurinus*, *hendersoni*, and *griseus* are ignored. There are many other examples where this occurs, e.g., Hermit Thrush and Fox Sparrow. I think this use of geographic descriptors takes us back a step and adds more confusion to the already complex subject of bird taxonomy.

In summary, I think this book will probably supplant all other field guides as the most comprehensive field reference for North American birds. You might not want to lug it in the field because of its extra bulk, but it will be an invaluable reference to keep in the car or at home. Everyone, from the beginning birder to the serious birder, should own a copy. This book contains a wealth of information from which we all can benefit.

LITERATURE CITED

Kent, T. H. and J. J. Dinsmore. 1996. *Iowa Birds*. Published by the authors. 391 pp.

612 1/2 West Magnolia Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521
(dinsmore@lamar.colostate.edu)

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

With the March 1951 issue, Iowa Bird Life's first editor, Fred Pierce, began his third decade of editorship. The lead article was a biography of Mrs. J. H. Taylor, a longtime resident of Sioux City and later Berkeley, California. Mrs. Taylor had a strong interest in birds but was best known for her biographies of early Iowa ornithologists including Althea Sherman, Paul Bartsch, and R. M. Anderson. Curiously, this article was written by T. C. Stephens in 1943 but was not published until 1951 after Mrs. Taylor had died. By then, Stephens also had died and Mrs. Taylor had written an earlier biography of him!

The main bird article of the issue is the summary of the 1950 Christmas Bird Count in Iowa. A total of 17 counts were held and 70 species were found. Only four species (Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Cardinal, American Tree Sparrow) were reported on all of the counts. One wonders if the several counts that failed to report European Starling and House Sparrow considered them unworthy of counting. As usual, Des Moines had the most species with 43. Among the short notes, Henry Birkeland of Roland in Story County commented on several species of that area. Although he had been observing wildlife since about 1900, he noted that he saw his first Northern Cardinal in the area in 1947 and heard one sing for the first time in 1948.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall 2000 Business Meeting

23 September 2000

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union business meeting was held at Iowa Lakeside Lab, West Okoboji, Iowa. The meeting was called to order by President Mark Proescholdt.

Treasurer's Report. Rita Goranson gave a brief report. There was \$4,241 in the checking account. The IOU paid for a scope for the Kellerton Bird Conservation Area and received a thank you from DNR Biologist Mel Moe.

Records Committee. Ann Johnson, secretary, is in the process of a transition from Tom Kent's role as the previous secretary. Ann said she is amazed at all the contributions that Tom made to the Records Committee.

Membership Committee. Dave Edwards is the new Registrar for IOU, taking over from Curt Nelson and Marty Pauley.

Publications Committee. Mark Proescholdt said the committee is lacking three people and he will try to get names from the committee for new members.

Library/Historical Committee. Hank Zaletel said that Iowa State University has acquired the papers of Walter Rosene, an Iowa birder from Ogden and first IOU president of the organization.

Other Committee or Activity Reports. Proescholdt stated that IOU Editor Kay Niyo has published two issues and is looking for articles for future issues.

Zaletel stated that he needs Christmas count dates by November 20 for the IOU Newsletter.

Linda Zaletel and Kay Newman will have a booth at the science teachers meeting the end of October in Des Moines. In the second week of November, Linda Zaletel will be in Tucson, Arizona, presenting a program on the educational books and is hoping to sell quite a few.

Proescholdt stated that Jim Fuller continues to do an excellent job with the Birdline.

Ann Johnson briefly discussed the Web page and selling IOU materials on the internet.

Proescholdt said Ann Barker, who does the Spring Count, would like to turn it over to someone else to compile.

Proescholdt said that fall field reports should go to Jim Fuller.

Upcoming Meetings. Bob Cecil has offered to host the spring IOU meeting in Keosauqua at Hotel Manning the first weekend in May. We need hosts for the next fall meeting and future meetings.

Old Business. The IOU Board had a brief meeting after the Spring Business Meeting at Camp Ewalu and voted to spend two years worth of project money for the purchase of a stationary spotting scope at the Kellerton Bird Conservation Area in Ringgold County for viewing Prairie Chickens and other birds. Phil Walsh had contacted DNR Biologist Mel Moe earlier about this, and Mel talked with the board at that meeting prior to approval of the project money.

The IOU Board also approved \$500 for an Audubon REAP grant proposal request that Paul Zeph of Iowa Audubon made at the Spring 2000 business meeting. The IOU would be a sponsoring organization in this proposal.

Dick Tetrault brought up the idea again of the IOU sponsoring and paying in some way for birding tours. Proescholdt said that the board discussed this at the March board meeting and will talk again about it at the next board meeting.

New Business. Jim Fuller nominated Bruce Guy of Brighton to be a Rare Bird Host for his help in letting people know about the Barn Owls using his barn. Phil Walsh nominated Walter Chapman of Urbandale who had nesting Mississippi Kites in his yard.

The question was asked if new members receive a letter welcoming them to IOU and Proescholdt said he would check on it.

Bruce Ehresman, DNR Biologist and IOU member, asked the IOU to endorse the CARA (Conservation and Reinvestment Act) bill before Congress to provide funding for nongame wildlife. Over 300 groups and all 50 state governors have endorsed the bill. After discussion, the membership approved IOU's endorsement of the CARA bill.

Proescholdt said an IOU Nominating Committee has been formed for next spring's election. The committee includes Ann Johnson, chair, with Jim Fuller and Ann Barker.

Announcements. Proescholdt stated that IOU member Joan Buwalda of Marshalltown was very ill with cancer.

He said there are new IOU brochures available.

Proescholdt thanked the North Iowa Prairie Lakes Audubon group for hosting the IOU for the weekend and especially thanked Lee and Nancy Schoenewe, Doug Harr, Ed Thelen, Gary Grange, and Mark and Judy Wehrspan.

The meeting was adjourned.



MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member (without publications) (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the IOU); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members also will receive the quarterly *IOU News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the winter issue, 15 February for the spring issue, 15 May for the summer issue, and 15 July for the fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. Manuscripts may be submitted on computer disk (preferably Microsoft Word or WordPerfect for PCs) or sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor. Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript if sending a disk. Alternatively, material can be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available. For an order form, send a self-addressed envelope to *Iowa Bird Life*, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

Field Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Mark Proescholdt, President (2001), Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148

Tom Johnson, Vice President, (2001), 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211

Jane Clark, Secretary (2002), 9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325

Rita Goranson, Treasurer (2002), 115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401

Other members of the Board of Directors: **Judy Garton** (2002), **Maridel Jackson** (2001), **Curt Nelson** (2001), **James Scheib** (2002), **Phil Walsh** (2001)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publications: Hank Zaletel (Chair) (2006), Robert I. Cecil (2005), James J. Dinsmore (2004), Jim Durbin (2002), Harold White (2003)

Records: Ann M. Johnson (secretary), Paul Hertzell (2004), Chris Edwards (2001), James L. Fuller (2002), Matthew C. Kenne (2003), Thomas H. Kent (2006), James Sinclair (2005)

Membership: Galin Berrier, Barb Bettis, Rita Goranson, Maridel Jackson

Library/Historical: Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Spieker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

4–6 May 2001, Hotel Manning, Keosauqua, Iowa

Fall 2001, 7–9 September, Carroll, Iowa

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439, Kay@KayNiyo.com). An article describing the reporting process also is available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March (Robert I. Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com)

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June (Matthew C. Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511, meeckeckk@rconnect.com)

Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014, oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December (James L. Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll,



N.E., Iowa City, IA 52240 james-fuller@uiowa.edu)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Stephen J. Dinsmore, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521, (dinsmore@lamar.colostate.edu).

IOWA BIRDLINE: (319) 338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU HOMEPAGE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

IOU NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors, Paul Hertzelt, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA (phertzelt@tconnect.com)

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005 (lpdlfrd@juno.com). Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net)



